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P. 09

Applicant

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Appln. No.

10/763,720

Page

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 5, 7-9, 11, 13-15 and 17 are pending in the present application. Reconsideration is respectfully requested for the following reasons.

In the Office Action, claims 4-6, 10-12 and 16-18 have been indicated as being allowable if rewritten into independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of claim 6, claim 7 has been amended to include the subject matter of claim 12, and claim 13 has been amended to include the subject matter of claim 18. Accordingly, claims 1, 7 and 13 are identical to previously pending claims 6, 12 and 18, rewritten into independent form including all of the features of the base claims. Furthermore, all of the remaining claims depend from these claims which have been placed in condition for allowance. All pending claims 1-3, 5, 7-9, 11, 13-15 and 17 are believed to be in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowability is therefore earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted.

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